WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first substrate and a second substrate sandwiching a liquid crystal layer therebetween;

a first polarizer disposed adjacent to said first substrate at a side opposite to a side of said first polarizer facing said liquid crystal layer, with a first gap between said first polarizer and said first substrate;

a second polarizer disposed adjacent to said second substrate at a side opposite to a side of said second polarizer facing said liquid crystal layer, with a second gap between said second polarizer and said second substrate;

at least one of said first and second gaps including therein a first retardation film having a positive optical anisotropy and a second retardation film having a negative optical anisotropy, such that said first retardation film is disposed closer to said liquid crystal layer with respect to said second retardation film.

2. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed of a positive liquid crystal having a positive dielectric anisotropy.

3. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed of a negative liquid crystal having a negative dielectric anisotropy.

4. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first substrate and a second substrate sandwiching a liquid crystal layer therebetween;

a first polarizer disposed adjacent to said first substrate at a side opposite to a side of said first polarizer facing said liquid crystal layer, with a first gap between said first polarizer and said first substrate;

a second polarizer disposed adjacent to said second substrate at a side opposite to a side of said second polarizer facing said liquid crystal layer, with a second gap between said second polarizer and said second substrate;

at least one of said first and second gaps including therein an optically biaxial retardation film.

5. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed of a positive liquid crystal having a positive dielectric anisotropy.

6. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed of a negative liquid crystal having a negative dielectric anisotropy.

7. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

first and second substrates disposed substantially parallel to each other, said first substrate having a first principal surface at a side thereof facing said second substrate, said second substrate having a second principal surface at a side thereof facing said first substrate;

a first electrode pattern provided on said first principal surface of said first substrate;

a second electrode pattern provided on said second principal surface of said second substrate;

a first molecular orientation film disposed on said first principal surface of said first substrate so as to cover said first electrode pattern;

a second molecular orientation film disposed on said second principal surface of said second substrate so as to cover said second electrode pattern;

a liquid crystal layer confined between said first and second molecular orientation films;

said liquid crystal layer containing liquid molecules such that a major axis of said liquid crystal molecule aligns generally perpendicularly to at least one of said first and second principal surfaces;

said liquid crystal layer having a retardation of about 80 nm or more but below about 400 nm.

8. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a positive dielectric anisotropy.

9. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second substrates form, together with said liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, a liquid crystal panel, said liquid crystal display device further including a first polarizer having a first optical absorption axis and a second polarizer having a second optical absorption axis respectively at a first side and a second opposite side of said liquid crystal panel, in a state that said first optical absorption axis and said second optical absorption axis form an angle of about 90° with each other and such that said first optical absorption axis forms an angle of about 45 ° with respect to a central axis bisecting a twist angle of said liquid crystal molecules in said liquid crystal layer.

10. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said liquid crystal display device further includes, at least in one of a first gap formed between said first substrate and said first polarizer and a second gap formed between said second substrate and said second polarizer, a first retardation film having a positive optical anisotropy and a second retardation film having a negative optical anisotropy, such that said second retardation film is located at a far side of said liquid crystal

panel with respect to said first retardation film.

11. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first retardation film is disposed such that an optical axis thereof extends in a direction parallel to said optical absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers that is located adjacent to said first retardation film.

12. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first retardation film is disposed such that an optical axis thereof extends perpendicularly to said optical absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers that is located adjacent to said first retardation film.

13. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first retardation film has a retardation of smaller than bout 120 nm.

14. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said first retardation film is formed of a resin having a norbornene structure in a principal chain thereof.

15. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second retardation film is disposed such that an optical axis of said second retardation film extends in a direction substantially perpendicularly to at least one of said first and second principal surfaces.

16. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second retardation film has a retardation equal to or smaller than twice said retardation of said liquid crystal layer.

17. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said liquid crystal display device further includes an optically biaxial retardation film between one of a first gap formed between said first substrate and said first polarizer and a second gap formed between said second substrate and said second polarizer.

18. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said optically biaxial retardation film has a retardation axis within a plane parallel to said first and second principal surfaces, and wherein said retardation axis extends parallel to said absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers that is located adjacent to said optically biaxial retardation film.

19. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said optically biaxial retardation film has a retardation axis within a plane parallel to said first and second principal surfaces, and wherein said retardation axis extends perpendicularly to said optical absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers that is located adjacent to said optically biaxial retardation film.

20. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said optically biaxial retardation film has an in-plane retardation of smaller than about 120 nm.

21. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said optically biaxial retardation film has a retardation smaller than about twice said retardation of said liquid crystal layer in a direction perpendicular to said first and second principal surfaces.

22. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said liquid crystal display device further includes first and second optically uniaxial retardation films respectively in a first gap formed between said first substrate and said first polarizer and in a second gap formed between said second substrate and said second polarizer.

23. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first and second optically uniaxial retardation films are disposed such that each of said uniaxial retardation films has a retardation axis such that said retardation axis extends parallel to said optical absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers adjacent to said optically uniaxial retardation film.

24. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first and second optically uniaxial retardation films are disposed such that each of said uniaxial retardation films has a retardation axis such that said retardation axis extends perpendicularly to said optical absorption axis of one of said first and second polarizers adjacent to said optically uniaxial retardation film.

25. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 22, wherein each of said first and second optically uniaxial retardation films has an in-plane retardation of smaller than about 300 nm.

26. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 25, wherein each of said first and second optically uniaxial retardation films is formed of a resin having a norbornene structure in a principal chain thereof.

27. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second substrates form, together with said liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, a liquid crystal panel, said liquid crystal display device further includes a first polarizer having a first optical absorption axis and a second polarizer having a second optical absorption axis respectively at a first side and a second opposite side of said liquid crystal panel, in a state that said first optical absorption axis and said second optical absorption axis form an angle of about 90° with each other, said liquid crystal display device further includes first and second retardation films respectively having a first retardation axis and a second retardation axis between said liquid crystal panel and said second polarizer, such that said first retardation film is located closer to said liquid crystal panel with respect to said second liquid crystal panel and such that said first retardation axis extends in a direction perpendicularly to a direction of said second optical absorption axis of said second polarizer.